

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PRESS RELEASE

USAID supports the simplified procedure for registration of employees

USAID has assisted the Employment Service Agency (ESA) in developing and implementing an egovernment application that allows companies in Macedonia to electronically register new employees or deregister departing employees, saving the companies time and money. This new on-line process will particularly benefit companies with frequent employee turnover, for example, companies that employ seasonal workers or offer employment services. The system is available at www.avrm.gov.mk/PrijavaOdjava

"ICT is bringing efficiency and transparency to the labor market. Through USAID's e-Gov project, we have successfully implemented an electronic recruitment system for civil servants that is currently used by 90% of applicants. Similarly, USAID's Business Environment Activity has built a website which facilitates contacts between job seekers and potential employers. Last week, our Competitiveness Project introduced an internet tool which will connect students seeking internships and jobs with interested companies. All these efforts, using information technology, are aimed at creating cost and time-saving processes which enhance the labor environment", said Philip Reeker, US Ambassador in Macedonia. "I'm proud that US assistance to Macedonia once again contributes to the improvement of the business environment in Macedonia in a very tangible way. We share the same goals, to increase investment and stimulate growth and job creation"

The application will help move jobs from the "grey" economy to the formal economy, by encouraging businesses to register short-time, part-time and seasonal workers. A more efficient registration system will strengthen the government's ability to collect and analyze labor statistics in order to better forecast shortages and demand trends in the labor market. This application is an integral part of the overall efforts of the Government of Macedonia to reform its labor sector and decrease unemployment in the country.

NOTES TO EDITORS:

The American people, through USAID, have invested nearly \$500 million in Macedonia since 1993. USAID is implementing projects that increase investment, create jobs, reduce corruption and improve the quality of education in Macedonia. These initiatives support Macedonia's transition to a stable democracy and its successful integration into the European Union. USAID provides economic and humanitarian assistance in more than 100 countries. For more information please visit http://macedonia.usaid.gov. USAID's eGov project assists the Government of Macedonia and its institutions to increase efficiency and transparency by using information and communication technology, thereby helping make Macedonia more attractive to potential investors. For more information, please visit www.eGov.org.mk.